

BOROUGH OF BOSTON

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AND

MP Lewis



PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

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BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report of the Health of the Borough and Port of Boston, during the year 1942. Owing to difficulties, and changes in the clerical staff, the report has been unavoidably delayed.

The circumstances remain much as before.

The number of evacuees is now very small, and the work has consisted, for the most part, of the usual pre war routine. This has, however, been carried out in full.

It will be seen from the report, that all the Health Services pertaining to Maternity and Child Welfare, have been kept up to, and even beyond their former standard. It is still to be hoped that some central building can be obtained, where all the Services, including Education, can be carried out.

The arrangement with the Boston General Hospital, with regard to the provision of maternity beds, has worked satisfactorily, and the beds allotted to the Council have been occupied in full.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Public Health Department,
6, Bridge Street,
BOSTON.

Your obedient Servant,
DC Robertson.
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area (in acres) ... . . . . .	... . . . .	3,257
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (March 31st. 1942) ... . . . .	... . . . .	6,830
Rateable Value (March 31st. 1942) ... . . . .	... . . . .	£130,617
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... . . . .	... . . . .	£515

VITAL STATISTICS, 1942.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births,	Legitimate ...	411	214	197
	Illegitimate ...	20	13	7
Still Births,	Legitimate ...	17	10	7
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	-
Deaths.	... . . . .	295	141	154
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	... . . . .	... . . . .	20.07	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	... . . . .	... . . . .	... . . . .	40.09
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	... . . . .	... . . . .	13.74	

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	... . . . .	67.29
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... . . . .	70.56
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... . . . .	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... . . . .	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	... . . . .	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age)	... . . . .	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... . . . .	38

LABORATORY AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The war time facilities for laboratory and ambulance services are still in force and have functioned satisfactorily.

The following Laboratories are still available to carry out the examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens from the district if required :-

- (1) The Public Health Laboratory, Technical College, LINCOLN.
- (2) The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital,
Groby Road, LEICESTER.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements operated by the Boston and District Nursing Association remained unchanged during the year.

It is to be desired that some system of Home Helps should be established, as it is found increasingly difficult for expectant mothers in their confinement, to find means for the maintenance of the home.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Arrangements in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre, the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Ophthalmic Clinic, and the Venereal Diseases Clinic remain unchanged.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwifery Services.

The Holland County Council is the Supervising Authority for the Borough under the Midwives Act, 1936.

Maternity Services.

The arrangements made with the Boston General Hospital with regard to the above has worked satisfactorily during the year. A total of 92 mothers were admitted to the Maternity Unit through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has been carried out satisfactorily under existing conditions, but it is desirable to have more commodious premises. The supply of Dried Foods has been maintained in spite of War-time conditions. The number of attendances at the Centre for the year was 7,561.

Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic and Tonsils and Adenoids Cases.

Tonsils and Adenoids.

11 children under five years of age received operative treatment in the Boston General Hospital for Tonsils and Adenoids.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

42 attendances were made by children at Mr. Pilcher's Out-patient Department at the Holland Sanatorium for Orthopaedic treatment.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

11 attendances were made by children at the Ophthalmic Clinic during the year.

Dental Treatment.

19 children were referred from the Welfare Centre during the year to receive Dental treatment.

Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.

34 Expectant Mothers were referred for Dental treatment by the County Council, 31 receiving the necessary treatment through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery has continued to function successfully during the year, the total number of attendances being 8,273.

Miss Lawrence commenced her duties as Matron on 26th. October 1942.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Tyson, Waterworks Engineer for the following report on the Borough Water Supply:-

The rainfall for the year was well below the average, and the rainfalls for the past six years are as follows:-

1937	28.10	ins.
1938	24.36	"
1939	31.18	"
1940	27.17	"
1941	25.78	"
1942	21.62	"

The average rainfall for the past 40 years is 25.69 ins.

The Miningsby Beck ceased to flow on August 16th and commenced to flow again on October 26th having been dry for 70 days.

The supply from Fordington has been maintained but the volume pumped was reduced during the winter months, the bulk being supplied from Revesby.

The demands are increasing mainly due to the supplies to aerodromes, and war service requirements.

Water samples for analysis have been taken periodically and all the reports have been satisfactory.

Owing to war restrictions, there has not been any mains extensions. Lengths of main have been renewed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The sanitary circumstances of the Borough underwent practically no change during the year. The usual routine inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Staff, and the position at the end of the year was entirely satisfactory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

There was little or no systematic house to house inspections during 1942, owing to the lack of staff generally.

Endeavours were made, however, to keep dwelling houses in a reasonable state of repair if not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

The number of overcrowded houses at the end of the year was, as far as could be ascertained, constant.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Inspections have been made throughout the year of farms and dairies situated in the Borough, and with few exceptions, the premises have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are no producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk within the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Under the control of the Livestock Scheme, one slaughterhouse has been in use in the Borough covering the Borough and Rural District.

In my opinion a greater degree of efficiency in inspection of meat has resulted.

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Pork</u>
Carcases Examined.....	2356	5678	1633
Carcases Condemned.....	27	18.	31
Total weight condemned....	18 Tons. 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 27 lbs.		

In addition to the slaughterhouse, inspections have been made to premises used for the preparation of food.

ADULTERATION &c.

With the coming into operation of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 on the 1st October 1939, the duties as regards sampling were transferred to the Holland County Council.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following cases of Infectious Disease received hospital treatment at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital :-

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	11
Diphtheria ...	...	...	22
Pneumonia ...	...	...	2
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis ...			3
Measles ...	...	...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...		...	1
Dysentery ...	...	...	3
Chicken Pox ...	...	...	5

Of the 22 cases of Diphtheria, 7 cases were non-resident in the Borough.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, PROVISION OF SERA &c.

Medical Practitioners are given every opportunity for the examination of clinical material, and fees are paid by the Authority where necessary.

The work is carried out at the Laboratory of the Holland County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Official notification of this disease is carried out with a fair degree of efficiency.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following brief report on the work carried out in connection with the Port Health Administration during the year ended 31st. December 1942. :-

SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR :-

Of the total number of foreign and coast-wise ships entering the Port during the year, the following are particulars regarding inspections carried out, defects remedied etc.

Number Inspected :-

(a) By Medical Officer of Health...	...	3
(b) By Sanitary Inspector ...	...	16

Number reported to be defective Nil

Number of vessels on which defects were remedied Nil

Number of vessels reported as having or as having had during the voyage infectious disease 1

PART SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933 :-

Infectious Disease Notified.

Cases of Infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year 1

Cases of Infectious sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival Nil

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS :-

Rats destroyed during 1942.

(1) On vessels ...	... . . . .	Nil
(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses		Nil

Issue of Deratination and Deratination Exemption Certificates.

No certificates have been issued during the year, as Boston is not an approved Port. Certificates when required have been obtained from Grimsby.

FOOD INSPECTION.

No action was found to be necessary during the year under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc.) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

Conferences have been held by the Local Authorities abutting the Wash with a view to securing cleansing tanks for the purification of shell-fish.

DISINFESTATION OF SHIPS.

One ship was disinfested for Bugs. Another ship which was extensively infested by cockroaches, was also disinfested.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.C. Robertson

Medical Officer of Health.